

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain in the application with claims 1 and 5-9 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Colby et al.

As explained in the present specification, the present invention is intended to provide more autonomy to content suppliers of an information network. Typically, in the past, the content provider provided the content data to the broadcasting station, which acts as a delivery device, and the broadcasting station set the band and the transmission schedule and the like. In other words, the band, broadcast time, transmission paths, and the like were totally managed, and the content provider could not select the condition as desired.

The present invention is intended to allow a content provider easily to designate a delivery condition, which might consist of a transmission band or a transmission path.

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize the above-noted features of the present invention.

Colby et al. relates to a management system for a data network in which three classes of users are contemplated: publishers, who are people who provide content; viewers, who are people who access or view the content; and administrators, who are people who manage the system. A topology manager manages the broadcast events and the topology manager is an

automatic program. Connected to the topology manager is a scheduler that is also a program and that arranges the program content for transmission, so that there is no conflict between the various data transmissions.

Although Colby et al. provides a detailed analysis of a network and system employing a number of servers to control the broadcasting or transmissions of program materials, such as content data, there is no suggestion in Colby et al. of providing a delivery designating means, for example, or designating a delivery condition set by the user including one of a transmission band and a transmission path for use in delivering the content data, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

As shown in the drawings and explained in the present specification, such a delivery designation means is part of every one of the information providing apparatuses shown at 101 in Fig. 1, which is then shown in more detail in Fig. 2.

It is respectfully submitted that Colby et al. fails to show or suggest such provision of a delivery designating portion in the information providing apparatus, since Colby et al. provides only a single master topology manager and scheduler for the entire data network to which a number of the servers that provide content data are connected.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that an information providing apparatus and method, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the

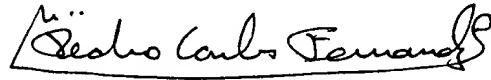
cited references, alone or in combination.

The references cited as of interest have been reviewed and are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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